

In the Claims:

A. Please amend the following claim.

1. (Amended) An oil pan assembly, comprising:

a) an engine component having an associated first mating surface;

b) a molded plastic oil pan having an associated second mating surface; and

c) an adhesive in contact with said first mating surface and said second mating surface for joining said first component and said oil pan to define an oil pan assembly, wherein the resulting joint has a strength greater than the strength of said molded plastic oil pan.

B. Please add the following new claims.

18. (New) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said oil pan is a blend of a polyamide and a syndiotactic polystyrene, and said joint is substantially free of a sealing gasket, and substantially the entirety of said first and second mating surfaces in contact with said adhesive is capable of bonding thereto.

19. (New) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said adhesive is a cure-on-demand adhesive.

20. (New) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a plasma coating on said oil pan.

21. (New) The assembly of claim 9, wherein said oil pan is injection molded filled plastic blends of nylon and syndiotactic polystyrene, and said joint is continuous between said first mating surface and said second mating surface, and substantially the entirety of said first and second mating surfaces in contact with said adhesive is capable of bonding thereto.

22. (New) An oil pan assembly, comprising:

- a) an engine component having an associated first mating surface and one or more cutout portions;
- b) a molded plastic oil pan having an associated second mating surface and one or more clips, wherein said one or more clips align the molded plastic oil pan with the engine component when engaged with the one or more cutout portions of the engine component; and
- c) an adhesive in contact with said first mating surface and said second mating surface for joining said first component and said oil pan to define an oil pan assembly, wherein the resulting joint has a strength greater than the strength of said molded plastic oil pan.

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C. Please cancel claims 6 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained herein.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed December 26, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-17. Claim 1 has been amended, claims 6 and 14 have been canceled and claims 18-22 have been added. A minor amendment has been made to claim 1 to simply conform to 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 2, requirements. Furthermore, the assignments of the present invention (simultaneously filed with the Assignment Branch) and that of U.S. Patent Application Publication, US 2002/014827, filed herewith and incorporated by reference, renders the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection moot in light of 35 U.S.C. 103(c). The basis for the above amendment and new claims may be found throughout the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed. By way of the foregoing amendment and the version with markings to show changes attached hereto, claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-22 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the remarks contained herein.